

Dec. 1st 1979.
Dear Mr. Gruen - This is a dreary wet Sunday - as for the
photos you enclosed. I sent you the original ones, mounted
several years ago. Does no one at the Museum let their
left hand know what their right is doing - As I've said
I've no pictures of either George Gregory or Charlie Winkle
just didn't seem, back in the old days to take any. and
neither of them are in the Darwin Store picture, except
that in the mounted picture in front of the store. George is
standing behind by one of the store posts. What ever has
happened to the big mounted pictures inside of the store
and out in front. I sent several years ago - up to me -
they were for the Museum to keep - Get name them off again
while you look up my originals - these copies are not too
clear. This same picture I sent of The Darwin Store 1905
is on page 101 in The Saga of Inyo and miss-labeled "The
Old Saloon in Darwin" It is not the Saloon - only one
corner at the rear was the bar. In 1876-'77 when Darwin
boomed Charlie Anthony closed up his business in dying
Panamint City and arrived in Darwin, built the General
Store. Hotel and barns - all destroyed in our 1918 fire.
The Museum has my pictures or should - unless lost. One
entered through front & side, double glass doors. on the
right was the Grocery counter with a huge Coffee grinder
on the front end, then the bar. behind which on the back
bar was a display of cut crystal square & round whiskey
bottles - Old Taylor - Old Crow - "one finger" drunk in a
whiskey glass was "2-bits" - "2 finger" was 4-bits - a qt.
bottle a dollar & a half & 3 dollars - according to brand.
old Crow & Old Taylor was the most common drunk, above
the back bar was a big beautiful mirror - with hand

3. Carved mahogany frame, deep - in the lower right hand corner was a bullet hole - where some "joyour" customer had taken a shot with a 45. Under the front counter, as you can see, were bins for different size nails - behind the bar is 18 yr. old Amos Hancock of Lone Pine. worked in the store - standing on the bar with the bottle of whiskey is Henry Heitman, who shortly after this picture, opened up his saloon - saloon - cata cornered across the street. The Black Metal Saloon in partnership with Martine Etchaverry - standing just behind Domingo Etcharren - with arm on bar - Domingo and Silas H. Reynolds bought the store - barns & hotel from Charlie Anthony in 1904 - later dissolved partnership and Silas kept the store, half the barns - and Domingo kept the other half of barns and the hotel. Domingo was an out doors man - owned the Junction from the late 1880's and when they dissolved partnership kept the cows - half the barns and the hotel. Silas and Mammie Hession - old Independence family - look in your Story of Inyo. by Chalfant - were married Feb 16 - 1910 and ran the business until Silas died in Dec 31st 1918 and Mammie continued to run the store - also was Post Master until all was lost in 1918 on July 7th - the barns and Saloon had burned the 2 blocks in our fire Aug 17th 1917 - pictures of which I sent the Museum several years ago. I take it back - George Gregory is on the extreme left of picture - beside the half of John Nixie - I'll have to take the morning of tomorrow and write the names. So as I've said you already have the names in order on the original picture - Charley Anthony was a mining man. also had a mine & mill (Anthony) canyon - just south of the mouth of Shepherd's Canyon - is on

ups - missed this page!

3. the map - "Anthony Mill Ruins" all in Navy Restricted Area now. They have closed 77 miles of my old home country - tried to include Panamint Valley - but didn't get away with that! Again if you will just look on the back of my pictures you will find the names - unless some enterprising person has erased them. In a very poor sleeper and hours of "wooing Morpheus" I go back to old days and old friends and childhood days in Darwin & school. Wallace Campbell and I would dig up page by page ^{of the "Great Understander"} and compare with stories the few old timers still around would tell us. Wallace was smart and quite a poet - has several poems in Inyo Trails - put out in 1933-34 by the Inyo Writers Guild - should be copies in the Library - Winter 1933. #1 volume on page 7 is one of his poems to his father "Tally" also "A Diggers Prayer" pg 13 and in Spring 1934 Volume 1 - #2 pg 14 is "Desert Slumber Song" "Charity" pg 26 - one of Darwin's unsolved mysteries is the disappearance of Simon Campbell on May 17, 1924 - he was working in Lane Canyon and on way home - for what reason? put his watch in his lunch box & set by side of the trail knowing Wallace would see it on his way from work - 74 yrs old - disappeared completely - later that summer evening Frank Chrysler riding horse back met a Ford flivver coming into Lone Pine - in the back seat between 2 men was Simon - Frank waved & said "hello Simon". The car did not stop & never a sign of Simon from that day to this - miles around Darwin was scoured - men lined up arm in arm & looked in every prospect hole & shaft. A sad day for all of us who knew Campbells - he often came over to Millsap's and worked for us - a real old time "hard rock" miner. When Frank Chrysler worked in the store - evenings he walked up to Campbell's

& he and Rinon played cribbage - cribbage! and if we girls were up visiting with Kate - we'd retire to the kitchen & shut the door & play "Old Maid" or listen to Kate talk gold days - They came from Canada & lived in Keeler and Rinon worked at Cerro Gordo - then moved to Darwin and Wallace was born in Lone Pine - a long trip of 40 miles then by horse stage & Wallace was born Dec 22 - 1894 and died Oct 10 - 1958 - is buried in Independence in Masonic section 64 yrs old. — Mon 3rd got "writers cramp" here - No - I do not recall any "Dr. Jackass Ram" a new one on me! Our Indians in old days as I say - took names of people they worked for or liked and any Indian names they may have had - they discarded - the white man's ways were what they wanted and any fights or disputes they had amongst themselves they settled in their own way, until those old ways had to end - Panamint Tom was the last "bad Indian" in my part of the country. I wrote of he & his brother Charlie in a recent letter - Well I guess to please you I'll have to let you use my full name - but only when you think necessary - I've a "thing" about it - all my life I've been a very private person - no doubt from growing up alone with just my horses & dogs and my mts to climb - I've never cared about "mingling with the crowd" much prefer standing on the side lines and watching others. and "social" life has never been for me - I hold my old friends very close - so few left. So I'm "Important" I but only in my own small way. I've always loved my "up home" country and it will always be "up home" tho the Navy has done some bad things to it; at least they protect it from vandals and "strays" who have no appreciation of it. I've got at marking the names for you - but do look on my original pictures & information of them. I'll return as

5) soon as possible - but don't spend your holidays decipher-
all this - by now you should know how "longwinded" I am:
The "colored" man. they were called that or "nigger" - a degrading
name - to the left of the store pipe - above Alex Rouna - came
to town - "Joe" - worked - was accepted - a great (cour) curiosity
to our Indians - especially the young ones, never seeing one
before - if he had a last name I don't recall it - I repeat - I
wrote the names on the back of my original picture - always
have & do - any thing but a picture of "who - what - where" -
as you know by now, my letters "go as she looks" - I don't read
them over - I write as my thoughts come and that's it - maybe
not "professional" perhaps - but me, my "old" friends call me
"Bess" and I can't do any thing about it - started when I was
little so I'm particular about "Elizabeth R. Mechem" and there
is one thing I won't stand for is "ie" tacked on the end - I'll go
down fighting against that! If it is O.K. I'll keep one copy
of the store group as I sent the original to the Museum and
only had the one picture. I'll try and get it tomorrow
and mail separately. Hope I've "covered" your questions. guess
I'll have to read this over and find out. as ever
Happy Holidays to you and yours. Elizabeth R. Mechem

P.S. Look at the picture I sent of the front of the store
of 1905 - Silas Reynolds' buggy & team to the right with
Alex Rouna - they wanted me to sit in the buggy - but I
did not want to as Alex got in it - leaning against or
just behind one of the porch posts is George Gregory - names
are on back of picture, so check them off - I didn't keep the
names when I sent them - probably should have. but
reasoned the Museum would keep pictures etc. that I have
sent - probably now "cached" in some carton and stored away!
O.K. you have my permission to use my full name & not → "E.R.M."
L.M.